

Road Re-Naming

This policy shall control the renaming of streets, roads, highways, and alleys for which requests are received after the date of adoption. The policy shall consist of a three stage progressive evaluation against objective criteria.

The first criteria relates to the significance of the existing name. If the name identifies a person, place, or event that has area wide, statewide, or national significance, or if the name strongly relates to the structure or identity of the surrounding community, then a name change shall not be considered for 100 years after the original naming. The date of the original naming shall be researched using real estate records, maps, and other sources and the staff shall make a determination based upon the best available evidence as to that date. If staff determines that the existing name does not have area wide, statewide, or national significance, or that 100 years have passed since the original naming, then the second criteria may be considered.

The second criteria involves a test of continuity. Renaming shall only be considered where an entire street, road, highway, or alley would be affected. Renaming a segment of a street, road, highway, or alley, where a transition from one name to another at some geographic point would result, shall not be considered. If a requested name change would not result in problems of continuity, as determined by the staff, then the third criteria could be considered.

The third criteria would relate to the acceptability of the proposed name. A proposed name shall at a minimum commemorate a person, event, or place of area wide, statewide, or national significance and it shall be acceptable to 66 percent or more of the owners of property adjoining the right-of-way. The acceptability shall be determined on the basis of signatures on a petition prepared for the proposed by the staff from estate records of the tax assessor's office. The staff shall prepare the petition showing the names of all property owners and present it to proposed, who shall attempt to get the necessary 66 percent of all signatures. Upon completion, the signatures on the petition shall be reviewed by the staff and randomly authenticated. If the test set forth under this criteria is passed, then the proposed renaming shall be deemed to be consistent with this policy.

A renaming request that staff has determined to be consistent with this policy shall be forwarded to the administrator with a report on the staff evaluation for action by the Public Safety Committee and subsequently the Augusta Commission. No notice except for the standard notice of items appearing on these agendas shall be given.